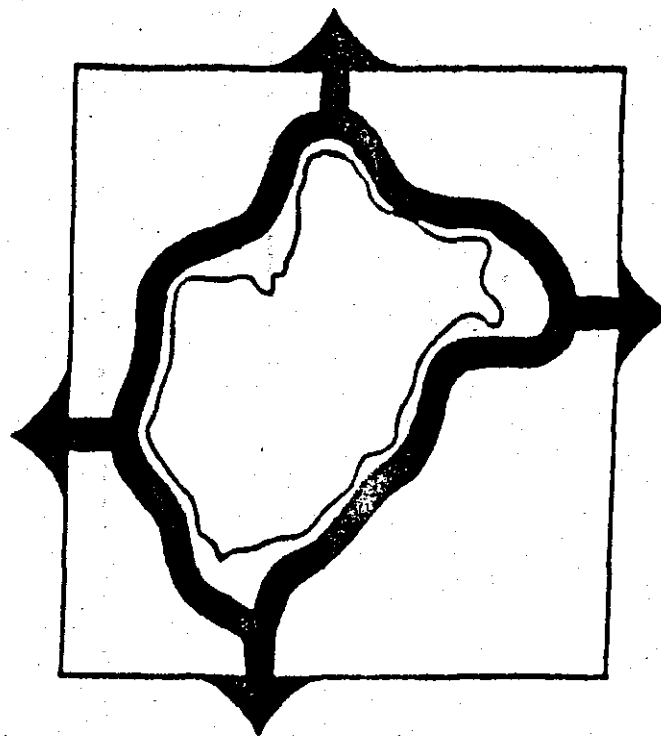


Green Lake 2020 NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN



January 29, 1999

Prepared by ANC - A Northwest Collaborative

Credits

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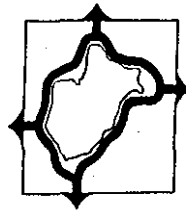
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Green Lake 2020 Neighborhood Plan

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Executive Summary

In the early years of the Twentieth Century the Olmsted brothers put forward a visionary plan for Green Lake, a plan based on a bold and progressive series of initiatives originating with the community. The legacy is visible today in Green Lake Park, possibly Seattle's most beloved, and the state's most frequented, park. Nearing the dawn of the 21st Century, the Green Lake 2020 Neighborhood Planning Committee is renewing this initiative and vision through a neighborhood plan for improving the area's physical infrastructure and meeting its human needs.

In a citizen-based planning effort that has taken place over two and a half years, Green Lake residents defined community values and built a series of key goals based upon those values. In brief, they said:

The Bathhouse at Green Lake, painting by Carl Funseth.



Green Lake Goals

- Conserve places, buildings, character, and qualities that make Green Lake a memorable community.
- Improve the community's ecological awareness and health.
- Develop a Residential Urban Village to serve as a cultural, residential and commercial center. At the same time, keep the area's many, lively commercial pockets.
- Significantly improve public transit.
- Make walking and bicycling safer and easier.
- Provide moderate-income affordable housing and provide social services that build a stronger community.

Practical steps, both large and small, to achieve those goals are detailed in this Green Lake 2020 Neighborhood Plan. The plan's key strategies include near-term, pragmatic projects as well as longer-term, urban revisions which anticipate and encourage change. Described below are the community visions, developed as "Key Integrated Strategies," that ground the Green Lake 2020 planning effort and the changes that will take place as the plan is implemented:

Green Lake Key Integrated Strategies

1. *Create a Vibrant Green Lake Residential Urban Village.*

Vision: The Residential Urban Village fulfills its potential as an integrated commercial and residential district. The cohesive community atmosphere is enhanced by residents of diverse social and economic backgrounds living near their places of work, shopping, and play. Public transportation is reliable and within walking distance of residences. The Residential Urban Village boasts attractive streetscapes, and new buildings enhance the scale and character of existing structures constructed in the early 1900s. The Residential Urban Village contains more housing than called for in the Seattle Comprehensive Plan, enabling more families earning 50 to 80 percent of the City median income to live in the Green Lake neighborhood. The Residential Urban Village's existing vitality is enhanced by the implementation of additional pedestrian-friendly elements.

Near Term: With curb bulbs extending into streets and improved crossings, pedestrians will more easily cross streets and board buses. Pedestrians will enjoy streets with more trees and hanging flower baskets which enhance the natural "green" feel of the neighborhood, serve as a visual link to the park, and buffer homes and businesses from street traffic. Public art will enrich the residential urban experience. Strategically placed street furniture will enable pedestrians to rest and meet their neighbors. New businesses will join with old ones to create a robust district.

Urban Revisions: The Residential Urban Village will be shaped through design review and zoning. The Residential Urban Village "Main Street," Woodlawn Avenue NE, as well as East Green Lake Drive N and East Green Lake Way N will be part of a "Design Review District" in which buildings will

incorporate terracing, balconies, setbacks, and other features. These features will harmonize new construction with existing historical buildings in this district. Buildings along Interstate-5 will have 60-foot heights to allow the Residential Urban Village to absorb growth beyond what is now foreseen, while still seeking to preserve the desirable elements of the existing character of the neighborhood. A public plaza will link the Urban Village's main street to Green Lake Park, and provide residents with a place to gather and meet at the heart of the improved Residential Urban Village. A public art sculpture will serve as a gateway into the residential urban village, and will enhance the sense of community.

2. *Create a First-Class Public Transportation System*

Vision: Green Lake is a mobile community. People who live and work in the neighborhood will have easy access to convenient, reliable, and comprehensive public transit. Visitors from all over the region will easily arrive at Green Lake Park and other attractions by public transit, reducing congestion, parking pressures, and pollution.

Near term: On key routes, buses will run every 10 minutes. They will be equipped to gain traffic signal priority at congested intersections.

Urban Revisions: A new Intra-Seattle rapid transit system will employ SR 99 as a central spine. The new 65th Street Sound Transit station will link to the community with a shuttle that circles Green Lake. A shuttle system will link the Green Lake Residential Urban Village with the neighborhood commercial areas and nearby town centers such as Phinney Ridge, Fremont, and Ballard.

3. Enhance the Environmental Health of the Green Lake Community

Vision: Where green spaces outside the Green Lake Park were once severely lacking, the neighborhood now boasts an expansive and rich diversity of parks and native habitat. Opportunities for environmental education and stewardship are increased.

Near Term: More trees will be planted. An inventory of neighborhood habitats will be conducted. Wildlife habitat will be encouraged on both public and private properties.

Urban Revisions: An environmental education center within the Green Lake/Woodland Park area will be established, serving both the neighborhood and the region. Green Lake's water quality will improve through restoration of natural drainage and surface-water biofiltration.

4. Improve Neighborhood Mobility

Vision: The area is accessible via a wide variety of transportation modes, besides automobiles. People feel safe riding bicycles and walking. They leave their cars at home more often. People with disabilities have convenient and safe access to activities.

Near Term: Bicyclists will find more bicycle racks around the lake. With more curb bulbs and pedestrian-activated cross-walk signals at key locations, walking through the neighborhood will become safer and quicker. People with disabilities will also find their access improved at key locations.

Urban Revisions: New pedestrian connections across Aurora will reunite West Green Lake and Phinney Ridge with Green

Lake Park. A linear park ("Woodland Greenway"), running south along Woodland Park Avenue from N 50th Street will link Woodland Park and Green Lake Park to the Burke Gilman Trail.

5. Create a "Community Building Blocks" Program

Vision: Green Lake is a community where people know each other. Through cooperation, collaboration, and celebration, residents create a healthy and vibrant neighborhood. Green Lake has the network and connections which ensure that all members of the community are cared for and included in neighborhood activities.

Near Term: The Blockwatch program model will be expanded to provide information and access to services. The community will gain more use of existing school properties. Block parties will be easier to set up. People including seniors will gather in new social spaces in the neighborhood and park.

Urban Revisions: Youth and teens will have new play areas and programs. Seniors will have a storefront center along "Main Street"

Land Use, Community Character and The Business Community are more fully developed in Section III. That section addresses specific concepts and recommendations for the Residential Urban Village including concepts for the pedestrian network of streets; development of design guidelines; preservation of treasured places; preservation of existing single-family housing stock for a range of incomes; and fostering and supporting a vital business community.

Implementation and Stewardship of the Green Lake Community Plan is addressed in Section IV.

I Introduction

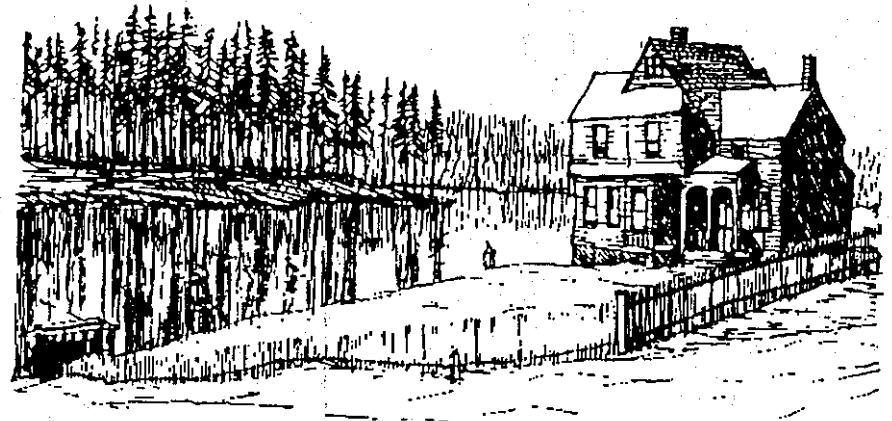
The residents of Green Lake eagerly await the completion of a neighborhood history being written by Louis Fiset. Until then, even a cursory telling of events relating to the Lake and its surrounding neighborhood over the last century offers some relevant lessons to today's neighborhood planning process.

The definable character of Green Lake as a neighborhood is undeniably tied to the physical presence of Green Lake and Green Lake Park. Ninety years ago, however, the lake was larger and configured differently. It related in markedly different ways to its watershed and to both its physical and social environments. Green Lake Park was a far cry from the landscaped and planted reality, with its climax vegetation, that are familiar sights of today. The "Park" was an idea about the possibilities of an exposed and transformed lake bottom. The water level ultimately had to be lowered by seven feet to secure the lake-within-a-park that the Olmsted brothers' envisioned as a centerpiece of the greening of Seattle.

Further, the lake was related to its surrounding human community within a very different social context; it did not belong to the community in the way it does today.

The lake was deeded to the city by the state in 1905, in large measure through the efforts of early Green Lake resident and state legislator, F. A. McDonald. But some of the lakefront property still remained in private hands. A bold process of municipal condemnation, strongly supported by the Green Lake Improvement Club, was required to secure the water park for the citizens of Seattle.

The Green Lake branch library, probably the most recognizable and cherished of the neighborhood's built landmarks, is another product of bold vision and collaborative enterprise. The Carnegie-funded library became a reality for the neighborhood only when



F.A. McDonald home on Green Lake, circa 1890 (source: Historic Seattle, reprinted with permission)

a group of some forty local residents had secured the property on which it was to be built by raising \$3000 and obtaining another \$1000 from the City Library Board.

The lake and the park and the Green Lake neighborhood we know today are the products of past bold and progressive initiatives, often enacted in the face of opposition. These initiatives succeeded because of collaborative partnerships forged between visionaries, planners, developers, business entrepreneurs, city and state officials, and groups of active citizen residents.

Those who have produced this neighborhood plan, as a part of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan for the beginning of the next century, hope that its vision may one day be characterized as a set of bold and progressive responses to the neighborhood's needs and aspirations.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE GREEN LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

This Green Lake 2020 Neighborhood Plan is the culmination of eight years of growth planning throughout the state of Washington. Faced with the effects of continuous growth since the end of World War II, the Legislature passed two Growth Management Acts in 1990-91 after many years of debate. This legislation mandates that each County with a city population of 50,000 or more prepare plans for these topics: land use, transportation, housing, capital facilities and utilities. Further planning is encouraged in areas such as: economic development, habitat conservation and community design. These plans, operating over a 20-year planning horizon, are to respond to projected growth targets with strategies that compliment neighboring and regional planning goals.

In 1994, the City of Seattle developed an innovative and widely recognized plan known as "Toward a Sustainable Seattle." It was founded on the principles of making the best use of existing development patterns and directing growth toward Residential Urban Villages.

Growth Management and Neighborhood Planning

In 1995, in order to fulfill its stated goals of managing growth while honoring neighborhood uniqueness, Seattle created a Neighborhood Planning Office with a \$4.4 million budget. This office was given the task of empowering voluntary neighborhood planning initiatives within the proposed urban villages, urban centers, and manufacturing and industrial centers. Those neighborhood-based efforts were to review the City's planning goals for each neighborhood and to provide strategic plans fulfilling growth management goals that were customized by each of the neighborhoods for its particular community vision.

THE PROCESS: HOW WE GOT HERE – HISTORY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Green Lake 2020 was formed in May 1996 following a presentation made to the Green Lake Community Council by the Neighborhood Planning Office. Concerns about the impacts of growth led a core group of citizens to apply for neighborhood planning funding.

1. Phase I

During Phase I a survey was developed and mailed to 8,000 Green Lake residents. Respondents identified these needs and concerns:

- Better Traffic Management
- Upkeep of Parks and Green Spaces
- Building a Stronger More Cohesive Neighborhood
- Managing Industrial Activity
- Improved Bike Lanes/Trails
- More Crime Prevention Activities
- Better Pedestrian Access to the Lake and Elsewhere
- More Green Space: Pea Patches and Pocket Parks

The final task of Phase I was to develop a scope of work to address these issues during Phase II planning.

2. Phase II

Phase II planning began in 1998 with the retention of A Northwest Collaborative (ANC) as the consultant team to serve as a professional resource to the Green Lake 2020 Steering Committee and the community.

The development of the Green Lake 2020 Plan began by looking back at the historical planning record, including the Olmsted Plan (1904), the Nyberg/Steinbrueck Inventory of

Buildings and Urban Design Resources (1975) and the Green Lake Plan (1981).

The Steering Committee and volunteers engaged in extensive efforts to identify the community's ideas, challenges, visual preferences, and desired policies. These efforts included outreach activities, surveys, public workshops, and town meetings where ideas were gathered and planning concepts were presented and evaluated. From this research and interactive process the Green Lake 2020 Steering Committee, with the help of ANC, has developed this document. The Green Lake 2020 Neighborhood Plan organizes the community's vision into implementable steps.

Green Lake 2020 Town Meeting, 1998



Green Lake 2020 Community Vision Statement

Green Lake is a community where....:

- The diversity and affordability of housing allow a broad mix of people to live in the area. The architectural character of housing creates a pleasant, coherent physical community, and through its careful design, reflects the area's history as a neighborhood of single-family houses while allowing for greater density in designated areas.
- The natural beauty of the Lake is a focal point for the community, providing both visual respite and recreational opportunities for residents of varying ages, incomes, and interests. Residents feel strongly about preserving and enhancing the Lake's natural and recreational qualities.
- Residents know each other through shared activities, as neighbors, or through contact in their daily routines. Residents share a sense of responsibility for the community's well-being, and wish to be involved in projects related to the area's growth, diversity, environment, and history.
- Diverse local businesses thrive because they serve the residents' daily needs, have a critical mass of local population utilizing their services, are easily accessible by foot, and exist in an architecturally interesting and pleasant environment.



Next Steps

The Green Lake 2020 Committee submitted this plan to the Neighborhood Planning Office for review and response by the relevant City departments. Green Lake 2020 then factored these "executive responses" into the Final Plan, which was presented to the community for a "final validation event" on December 14, 1998.

This plan reflects the community comments that were expressed at the validation event. As of this writing, the plan is now being submitted to the Seattle City Council. City Council will hold a public hearing in the community, and prepare its final recommendations for City action. The City Council will vote on the package and will adopt Green Lake 2020's goals and policies into the Seattle Comprehensive Plan. The Council will also adopt a work program for implementing the plan.

Implementation

Implementation of the plan elements will be undertaken in various ways. Though not automatic, implementation may take place through existing City programs and/or community organizations. This plan will make specific recommendations for change, prioritize them into near-term and long-term strategies, specify whether they are high-, medium- or low-priority and identify the agencies, organizations and partnerships that are able to assist with implementation. Continued efforts will be made throughout this planning process to develop strategies for implementing the higher priority elements of the plan. It is our interest in developing this plan that residents and business owners in Green Lake will be partners with the City to implement the plan.